

Viet Nam Coordinated Surveillance for Influenza and Other Viruses with Pandemic Potential

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A cohesive understanding of the burden of various priority pathogens, animal/livestock market chains and the evolution of influenza viruses in Viet Nam requires coordination of human-animal interface surveillance outputs. USCDC, FAO, WHO and WCS collaborated with Ministry of Health (MOH) and Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development (MARD) to enhance detection and characterization of influenza and other viruses with pandemic potential in Viet Nam by linking components of existing influenza surveillance in livestock, wildlife and humans. Quang Ninh and Dong Thap were selected as pilot provinces based on the animal value chain and on-going surveillance programmes in human, livestock and wildlife. During the surveillance period, 10 human SARI samples per week from each sentinel hospital in Quang Ninh and Dong Thap will be tested for influenza and other priority respiratory pathogens. Those influenza and respiratory pathogen negative human SARI samples, and approximately 400 healthy poultry samples and 400 healthy pig samples collected from Quang Ninh and Dong Thap, will be screened with consensus PCR assays for viral families of pandemic potential developed by USAID's PREDICT project. Influenza viruses will be characterized to sequence level. Wildlife surveillance in Quang Ninh and Dong Thap will be focused on high-risk interfaces for viral spillover from wildlife to domestic animals or humans. Wildlife surveillance sites will include live animal markets, bat guano collection sites, and wildlife restaurants. All results will be shared across sectors for joint situation analysis and risk assessment. Influenza characterization and PREDICT viral discovery results across human, livestock and wildlife samples will be included in the final presentation.

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